I.T.D.C. Hotels to Private Sector

941. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to hand over the hotels run by the India Tourism Development Corporation to private sector ;

(b) if so, the details of the hotels likely to be given to the private sector ; and

(c) what is the accumulated loss of all the hotels run by the ITDC till March, 31, 1993 ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no accumulated loss in ITDC hotels till March 31, 1993.

Deployment of Army in Manipur Area

942. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Army was deployed in Manipur and the adjoining States to deal with Naga and Kuki militants operating against each other in the region ;

(b) if so, what are the details of army deployment there and the achievements of the Army therein ;

(c) whether the Army crackdown had angered the Kuki and Naga tribals ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the remedial action taken thereon by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Army remains deployed in Manipur and adjoining States in counter insurgency grid. This was further strengthened/augmented in recent past in order to tackle the situation created by the Naga and Kuki militants. It would not be in the public interest to divulge the details of the deployment of the Army, on the floor of the House. Army has done a commodable job not only in averting the occurrence of untoward incidents but also in providing assistance to the affected people. From 1st September, 93 till 5th December, 93, 14 underground elements were killed, 292 apprehended and 192 weapons recovered by the Army during operations in Manipur.

(c) and (d) In the perception of the Government, there has been no adverse reaction to the Army deployment from the Kuki and Naga tribes.

Repercussions of floating arms of Pakistan

943. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to experts India faces great threat as huge quantity of floating weapons, in the wake of break-up of Soviet Union, have reached Pakistan ;

(b) whether floating arms pose a big threat as 320 Stinger Missiles were sold in Pakistan's Arms Bazar ;

(c) if so, whether out of a total of 560 Stinger Missiles, 320 which were Missing, were sold in Pak's arms Bazar ;

(d) if so, whether Government have examined the press reports in this regard ;

(e) if so, what action Government propose to take ; and

(f) whether due to break-up of Soviet Union, Pakistan has obtained good number of arms and ammunition from them and if so, the reaction of Indian Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (f) Government do not have any specific information about the quantity of floating weapons having reached Pakistan in the wake of disintegration of the Soviet Union Pak media reports have indicated that both USA and Pakistan have been making efforts to buy

back the Stinger Missiles from Afghan Mujahideen. Government have information to indicate that Pakistan has evinced interest since 1992 in procuring T-72/T80 Tanks, Artillery Guns, Night Sights, Tank Transporters, SU-27 aircraft and Mig-29 aircraft from Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. Government keeps a constant watch on all developments and eventualities impinging on our national security and takes appropriate measures from time to time to ensure full defence preparedness.

Training to arms for non-conventional war

944. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take any steps to train army in fighting non-conventional war such as terrorism and insurgency which are aided and abetted by foreign countries ;

(b) whether Government have drawn any conclusion from the present seige of Hazratbal shrine in Kashmir ; and

(c) if so, the details of the action Government propose to take to reorient army training ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) The existing training curriculum is adequate for meeting the training requirements of the Army to deal with terrorism and insurgencies including cases such as the recent seige of Hazratbal shrine in Kashmir.

945. [*Transferred to 15th December*, 1993].

Non-suitablity of Arjun Tank in desert

946. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI AJUBHAI A. PARMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Arjun, the main battle tank of recent past developed by the DRDO has shown signs of latent and patent weakness with regard to its suitability for operations in the Thar desert of Rajasthan ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, and what steps are being taken to develop a suitable engine that may not get heated up during operations in deserts ; and

(c) what progress has so far been made in the project for the development of the new Main Battle Tank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Based on excellent performance of the ARJUN tank in automotive trials and weapon system firing trials held in desert area during Jan/Feb 1993, the Army has given acceptance for induction of ARJUN Tank. Further user trials are progressing well and improvements are also being incorporated based on the feed back of trials.

(c) (i) 12 MK-I prototypes developed and subjected to technical-cum-user trials for more than 20000 Km.

(ii) 6 Pre-production series tanks of Main Battle Tank-Arjun manufactured and handed over to the users for user/troop trials.

(iii) 9 more pre-production series tanks are under manufacture.

(iv) Planning for bulk production of MBT ARJUN has been initiated.

Indian Soldeirs deployed in Cambodia

947. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there were Indian soliders among the UNTAC troops deployed in Cambodia in the implementation of the Cambodian peace process ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many of the Indian soldiers have been tested positive for Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV) ;

(c) whether it has been reported that this involvement of Indian peacekeeping